

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Agricultural Marketing Service
Dairy Programs
FEDERAL MILK ORDERS 124 & 131

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RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title & Grade:

Dairy Scientist (Chemist I), MA-1321 – Part-time
MA 10-11

Vacancy Number:

06-03

Salary Range:

\$15.49 – \$22.77 per hour (Includes locality adjustment)
Salary commensurate with qualifications

Opening Date:

April 27, 2006

Promotion Potential:

MA 15

Closing Date:

May 20, 2006

Area of Consideration:

All Market Administrator Offices and
the Pacific Northwest Region
(No Relocation Expenses Paid)

Duty Station:

Bothell, Washington

The objective of a Federal Milk Market Administrator's office is to administer the terms and provisions of regulations referred to as a Federal milk order. Federal milk orders establish minimum prices that regulated dairy plants and milk handlers must pay Grade A dairy farmers for milk, based on how the milk is used. The milk order requires that these payments be pooled so that dairy farmers under an order are paid an average price for their milk, regardless of how it is used. More detailed information on the Federal milk order program can be found at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/orders.htm>.

Primary Duties of the Position:

The incumbent in this position will assist in the laboratory testing efforts of the Federal Milk Market Administrator located in Bothell, Washington. This office verifies milk testing for payment of farmers in Federal Orders 124 and 131 (Pacific Northwest and Arizona-Las Vegas Marketing Areas). Tests pertain primarily to fat, protein, lactose, and solids content of raw milk by infrared and wet chemical techniques. Analytical duties include mastery of all procedures related to the above as well as rigorous spreadsheet and graphical analysis of data. The candidate will be expected to interact with industry representatives via telephone and written correspondence. Special projects may include testing method improvement and detailed analysis of data in a database. Other duties include lab equipment maintenance, report generation, and daily sample management.

Qualification Requirements:

Applicants may qualify by holding a bachelor's degree in chemistry, dairy or food science, or physical or life science with at least 15 semester hours in chemistry consisting of lectures, recitation, and appropriate laboratory work from an accredited college or university. In addition, applicants must also have had at least 6 semester hours of physics and mathematics combined.

Applicants who do not have a degree must have the appropriate semester or quarter hours as described above and experience that, when combined with the education, would equal a four-year course of study. The experience should have equipped the applicant with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform at the grade level to which appointed.

The required amount of experience and education will not in itself be accepted as proof of qualification for the position. The candidate's record of experience must demonstrate that the candidate possesses the ability to perform the duties of the position. A copy of your college transcript is required.

Special Requirements:

Must be a United States citizen.

Must undergo a medical examination.

Evaluation Criteria:

Candidates who meet the requirements described above will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Ability to accurately perform a variety of wet chemical and instrumental methods related to determination of milk composition.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel or similar computer software, including the ability to electronically analyze (i.e. knowledge of computer spreadsheet/plotting/database applications, and statistics) and interpret data and draw appropriate conclusions.
- Knowledge of laboratory safety, chemical hygiene, good laboratory practices, and maintenance of laboratory instruments and other mechanical devices.
- Ability to communicate in an effective and professional manner, both in written and oral presentation.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

Application Procedures:

To be considered for the above position, submit a statement addressing the above evaluation criteria and a complete resume and/or OF 612, Optional Application for Federal Employment, postmarked by May 20, 2006, to: Federal Milk Market Administrator, 1930 - 220th Street S.E., Suite 102, Bothell, WA 98021-8471, or e-mail: jpriest@fmmaseattle.com.

Failure to address the evaluation criteria could result in elimination from consideration.

The agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and/or hiring process, please notify John Priest (425) 487-6009 or fax (425) 487-2775. The decision to grant reasonable accommodations will be on a case-by-case basis.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA'S TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.
